(c) what is the position of backlog vacancies for SCs/STs in promotion, direct recruitment as on 31st March, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A country-wide special drive was conducted to fill up backlog vacancies by all the Public Sector Insurance Companies including the Oriental Insurance Company Limited. As a result 754 vacancies were filled up out of the total backlog of 765 vacancies.

(c) Status of backlog vacancies for SCs/STs in promotion and direct recruitment as on 31.03.2007 is given below:

	SC	ST	Total
Promotion	1	8	9
Direct	-	2	2
TOTAL:	1	10	11

Objections of RBI to Vodafone-Hutch Phone deal

4365. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what exactly are the objections of RBI to the Vodafone-Hutch phone deal;

(b) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India's own policies and lax administration and confusion of FDI had led to a near monopoly in mobile phone sector.

(c) what steps will RBI take to reduce monopolies in Telecom sector by companies consolidating their market share through the FDI route; and

(d) the steps proposed to review policies which create price fixing tendencies and excessive profits for two or three companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Foreign Investment Promotion Board has since approved the application of Vodafone International Holdings, B.V.,

Netherlands for acquisition of an effective shareholding of 51.96% in Hutchison Essar Limited.

(b) to (d) The Telecom Policy is formulated by the Government. The extant Policy envisages providing telecom services of world standard at reasonable prices.

Target fixed by banks for priority sector lending

4366. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank has fixed a target of 40 per cent as Priority Sector Lending for banks;

(b) the category of banks which have to meet the target of 40 per cent Priority Sector Lending;

(c) the names of major banks who have to meet this target;

(d) how many banks failed to meet this target in the year 2006-07; and

(e) what penalties did RBI levy against such errant Banks in the year 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. RBI policy stipulates a target of 40% Adjusted Net Bank Credit or credit equivalent amount of off balance sheet exposure of the bank outstanding as on March 31 of the previous year for lending to priority sector by scheduled commercial banks.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Designs on currency notes

†4367. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) basis of inscribing sign and picture on currency notes and other currency of the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.